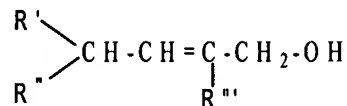


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a flexibilized resorcinolic resin solution[[s]], comprising:

(a) contacting one or more phenolic compounds with approximately 0.05 to 0.4 mole, per mole of the phenolic compound,

(i) of an unsaturated dihydroxy compound having the formula:



where R', R'', and R''' are individually a hydrogen or an aliphatic straight or branched alkyl, provided that R' and R'' cannot both be hydrogen at the same time, and that one of R' and R'' is or includes an OH group; or

(ii) of an unsaturated aliphatic aldehyde compound; or

(iii) of an aliphatic dialdehyde compound; or

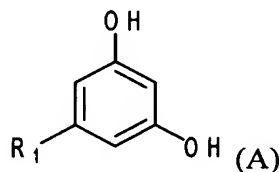
(iv) of a mixture of (i), (ii), and (iii),

in the presence of an acid catalyst to obtain a reaction mixture; and

(b) contacting the reaction mixture with about 0.1 to about 0.6 mole of an aldehyde per mole of phenolic compound in the presence of the acid catalyst, the aldehyde being different from the unsaturated aldehyde and the aliphatic dialdehyde.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound is selected from m-cresol, 3,5-dimethyl phenol, resorcinol, 5-methyl resorcinol, 5-ethyl resorcinol, 5-propyl resorcinol, m-amino phenol, 2-methyl resorcinol, 4-methyl resorcinol, 4-ethyl resorcinol, 4-propyl resorcinol, phloroglucinol, or a mixture thereof.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound is represented by the following formula (A):



wherein R₁ represents a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl and an alkyl radical having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is selected from oxalic acid, sulfuric acid, benzenesulfonic acid, benzenedisulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, phosphoric acid, or a mixture thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reaction mixture comprises at least one compound having an alkylene ether linkage.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contacting is carried out at a temperature in the range of between about 120° C and about 150° C.
- 7-8. (Canceled).
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the aldehyde is selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, propionaldehyde, n-butyraldehyde, n-valeraldehyde, and [[a]] mixtures thereof.
- 10-12. (Canceled).
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the dialdehyde compound is selected from ~~the group consisting of~~ malonaldehyde, succinaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, adipaldehyde, or a mixture thereof.
- 14-16. (Canceled).
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the phenolic compound to the dialdehyde compound is between about 1:0.05 and [[to]] about 1:0.3.
- 18-25. (Canceled).